

March 17, 2021

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman of the Senate Committee on
Environment and Public Works
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member of the Senate Committee
Environment and Public Works
172 Russell Senate House Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito,

On behalf of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA) and the aggregates industry we represent, we welcome today's hearing titled *Examining the Challenges Facing Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Projects*. NSSGA supports efforts to improve and invest in all levels of our nation's infrastructure network, including water and wastewater infrastructure, and appreciate the full committee's work achieving this goal.

NSSGA is the leading advocate and resource for the aggregates industry, who provide the critical raw materials found in virtually every surface transportation project; roads, highways, bridges, runways, pipelines and much more. Our membership represents more than 90 percent of the crushed stone and 70 percent of the sand and gravel produced annually in the United States. We welcome efforts of the subcommittee to introduce, debate and pass a robust infrastructure bill addressing our wastewater network. Ensuring timely and meaningful federal investments into our wastewater infrastructure will serve two key needs facing our country: rebuilding our economy by putting thousands of Americans back to work in the construction sector, as well as prioritizing the dependability and efficiency of our wastewater system for future generations.

As you discuss policies that would impact critical drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects, please consider aggregates sourcing and impacts on the construction supply chain involving any Buy America provisions. Specifically, broadening Buy America provisions to the Department of Transportation to include construction materials, which includes aggregates. In certain parts of the country, there are no viable aggregates due to the geological limitations of the region. This is common throughout parts of the Southeast along the Gulf of Mexico, most of Florida, as well as southern California and southern Texas. In these areas, raw materials must be imported to address this void and minimize construction supply chain delays. Despite some instances of importation, these materials are manufactured, processed and incorporated in American facilities with American labor. If these alternative sources were eliminated, raw materials would have to be trucked from much further distances; increasing costs, delaying projects and significantly increasing greenhouse gas emissions. This impacts surface and water infrastructure projects alike, and we hope as the Committee works on policies and investments in our Nation's infrastructure network, construction supply chain interruptions can be avoided.

NSSGA looks forward to the legislation your Subcommittee will draft and consider, and please consider our industry a resource as relevant legislation evolves. Further, NSSGA hopes the bi-partisan and productive dialogue this issue facilitates will build momentum throughout the full committee and entire House, to pass robust infrastructure investment for our surface transportation systems.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to partnering with your offices as we work to improve our nation's drinking water wastewater infrastructure network.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Johnson
President and CEO
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association